

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSO-00 ACDA-05 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3653

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, MZ, CH, UR

SUBJECT: CHINA TAKES EARLY LEAD IN INFLUENCE SWEEPSTAKES

1. DESPITE NUMEROUS SOVIET DELEGATIONS VISITING MOZAMBIQUE BEFORE AND DURING MOZAMBIQUE INDEPENDENCE, THE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS TAKEN AN EARLY LEAD IN THE RACE FOR PREDOMINANT INFLUENCE OVER THE NEW MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT.

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WM THE PRC STARTED WELL BY HAVING FRELIMO PRESIDENT SAMORA

MACHEL VISIT THE PRC IN DECEMBER 1974, WHILE MACHEL'S TRIP TO USSR DID NOT MATERIALIZE, POSSIBLY DUE TO ADMINISTRATIVE BUNGLING BY THE SOVIETS. THE USSR COUNTERED BY SENDING SEVERAL DELEGATIONS TO MOZAMBIQUE IN EARLY 1975, MARITIME, ECONOMIC AND FRATERNAL, BUT THESE RESULTED ONLY IN BLAND COMMUNIQUE OF FRATERNAL GOOD WISHES AND NO COMMITMENTS--AT LEAST PUBLICALLY--OF SOVIET ASSISTANCE WERE MADE. THE SOVIET STATEMENT OF THEIR INTENTION TO RECOGNIZE MOZAMBIQUE WAS DELAYED UNTIL JUNE, SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER A SIMILAR CHINESE STATEMENT, BUT THEY RECOUPED SOMEWHAT BY SENDING A HIGHPOWERED DELEGATION TO THE JUNE 25 MOZAMBIQUE INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES, LED BY KIRIL ILYASHENKO, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME SOVIET, AND LEONID ILITCHEV, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER. THE PRC DELEGATION WAS LED ONLY BY A MINISTER, YEH FEI, BUT COUNTERED WITH THE NUMBERS (ABOUT 100) OF SEPARATE DELEGATIONS INCLUDING WOMEN'S, YOUTH, PRESS AND CULTURAL GROUPS AND DANCE AND GYMNASTIC TROUPES. FOR ALL ITS STRENGTH THE SOVIET DELEGATION CAME ARMED APPARENTLY ONLY WITH AN (ANOTHER) INVITATION FOR MACHEL TO VISIT THE USSR, WHILE THE PRC MINISTER SWEEPED THE BOARDS BY OFFERING AND SIGNING AN INTEREST-FREE, LONG-TERM LOAN OF \$56 MILLION TO MOZAMBIQUE (SEPTEL). THUS IT IS NO SURPRISE THAT THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR LIN CHUNG PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO MACHEL ON JUNE 28 WHILE THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE, ARKADIY GLOUHOV, IS STILL AWAITING AN APPOINTMENT. ALSO, THE PUBLICATION OF THE USSR'S INVITATION TO MACHEL TO VISIT WAS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY ANY INDICATION OF ACCEPTANCE ON HIS PART, EVEN IN PRINCIPAL.

WALKER

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